Fire incident in Chandralok Building

844. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned 'Chandralok Building partially gutted' appearing in the "The Hindustan Times" dated the 18th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the preventive measures being taken or propose to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item highlighted, inter alia, the inadequacy of fire safety arrangements in the NDMC owned Chandralok building.

(c) The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has initiated a comprehensive review of the laws relating to fire service/fire prevention, etc. The NDMC has also constituted a Committee to look into the status of fire fighting arrangements in all NDMC owned buildings.

Non-registration of FIRs in Hauz Qazi Police Station

845. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of non-registration of FIRs in Police Station Hauz Qazi, Delhi during the last one year and till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that any M.P. has also requested for the registration of FIR in some cases in Poice Station Hauz Qazi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) As per the report furnished by Delhi Police, no instance of non-registration of FIR in respect of a cognizable offence at Hauz Qazi Police Station has come to their notice.

(b) and (c) An Hon'ble Member of Parliament had in August, 1996 forwarded to Delhi Police for investigation a complaint made by a shopkeeper of Nai Sarak area in Delhi against his land-lord in which he had, inter alia, alleged that his land lord had stolen away cash amounting to Rs. 42,000/- and other important papers from his shop but this case had not been properly investigated by the police. As per the report given by the Delhi Police, the allegation of burglarly/ theft had been looked into earlier but was found to be false and hence the matter was filed.

Cell for North-Eastern region

846. SHRI W. ANGOW SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a new cell for looking after the problems of the North-Eastern region has been opened in the P.M.'s Office;

(b) if so, the details functions of the cell; and

(c) the reasons for not keeping a separate Ministry for the North-Eastern Affairs like that of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Following the Prime Minister's visit to the North Eastern States during October 1996, a Cell in Prime Minister's Office was opened. The function of the Cell is to monitor the progress of implementation of the New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region announced by the Prime Minister at Guwahati on 27th october 1996.

(c) The existing arrangements are consider adeuate.

Powers and functions of the North-eastern Council

847. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the powers and functions of the reconstituted North-Eastern Council;

(b) who would be the permanent Chairman of the Council; and

(c) whether it is better to keep it directly under a separate Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The North Eastern Council has not yet been reconstituted. It has, however, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of the 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would also have powers to sanction schemes once approved by the Council within its approved Budget subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Central Government. The Scope of the schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of inter-State character. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters.

(c) After appropriate amendments to the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 the administrative control of the Council is proposed to be transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Planning Commission.

Cases of theft, robbery registered with Paharganj Police Station

848. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered in the Paharganj Police Station regarding Theft/robberies in the Aram Bagh area of New Delhi during the month of June, 1997 till date;

(b) whether cases of theft/robberies are increasing day-by-day in the locality; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Two cases of theft in the Aram Bagh area were registered at the Paharganj Police Station during the Period from 1st June, 1997 to the 10th July, 1997.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, Delhi Police is exercising increased vigilance in the area.

Arms dropping in Purulia

849. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that one foreign agency alerted New Delhi about possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially Purulia;

(b) if so, why the concerned authority failed to alert the concerned security agencies; and

(c) what follow-up action has been initiated for such negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Advance information regarding the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abondoned airfiled in Dhanbad area